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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJECT: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: NEW DELHI 10254

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS IN NEW DELHI OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST WHOLESAL ROUNDUP OF TEACHERS SINCE THE EMERGENCY. JOURNALISTS CONTINUE TO INSIST PRIVATELY THAT THE GOI ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS FORBIDDING REPORTING THAT

WOULD INJURE INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH FRIENDLY FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE PRO-CPI PRESS IS NEVERTHELESS CONTINUING TO CRITICIZE THE U.S. AND QUOTE ANTI-U.S. STATEMENTS MADE BY STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND CONGRESS POLITICIANS. IN GUJARAT, CONGRESS (R) IS ATTEMPTING TO USE AN UP-COMING ELECTION OF THREEIMAJYA SABHA MEMBERS TO SPLIT THE PEOPLE'S FRONT COALITION GOVERNMENT. SPECIAL INCOME
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TAX SQUADS ARE SURVEYING LUXURY APARTMENTS IN POSH RESI-

DENTIAL SECTIONS OF BOMBAY. THE RAJMATA OR PRINCESS OF JAIPUR, A FORMER SWATANTRA MP AND VOCAL CRITIC OF MRS. GANDHI, HAS BEEN ARRESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS IN NEW DELHI OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS. A LONG-TIME LECTURER IN DELHI UNIVERSITY SAID THAT THE FIGURE CROSSED THE 300 MARK JULY 30. AMONG THOSE DETAINED WERE FOUR COLLEGE PRINCIPALS, INCLUDING ONE WOMAN. A LARGE NUMBER OF THE ARRESTED TEACHERS BELONGED TO THE ARYA SAMAJ INSTITUTIONS, BOTH COLLEGES AND HIGH SCHOOLS. (NOTE: THE ARYA SAMAJ IS A CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS (PRO-HINDU)/POLITICAL/SOCIAL REFORM BODY PARTICULARLY STRONG IN THE PUNJAB. IT IS GENERALLY ADVERSE TO CONGRESS.) THREE TEACHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI FROM THE SANSKRIT DEPARTMENT REPUTED TO HAVE JANA SANGH CONNECTIONS WERE ARRESTED. (NOTE: THIS IS THE FIRST WHOLESALE ROUNDUP OF TEACHERS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.)

2. JOURNALISTS CONTINUE TO INSIST PRIVATELY THAT THE GOI HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS FORBIDDING REPORTING THAT WOULD INJURE INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE PRO-CPI PRESS IS NEVERTHELESS CONTINUING TO CRITICIZE THE U.S., THOUGH LESS FREQUENTLY, MOSTLY THROUGH REPORTS OF ANTI-U.S. STATEMENTS BY STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND CONGRESS POLITICIANS. THE AUGUST 1 EDITION OF THE PRO-CPI DAILY PATRIOT QUOTED CONGRESS PRESIDENT BAROOAH AS STATING ON JULY 31, THAT "RECENT EXPOSURE OF CIA ACTIVITIES INCLUDING HIRING OF ASSASSINS, GAVE EVIDENCE OF THE DANGERS AGAINST WHICH THE CADRES WOULD HAVE TO BE ON GUARD." THE AUGUST 1 EDITION OF PATRIOT ALSO QUOTED RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THREE PRO-SOVIET CPI-FRONT ORGANIZATIONS AS STATING: "POINTING OUT THAT THE U.S. OPENLY PURSUING (SIC) THE POLICY OF 'DESTABILIZING' GOVERNMENTS THAT DID NOT CONFORM TO U.S. INTEREST, AND THAT REACTIONARY FORCES LED BY MR. JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN WERE BEING USED TOWARDSTHIS END, THE MEETING SAID THE METHODS USED BY THE IMPERIALIST AND FASCIST FORCES IN

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INDIA WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE USED IN ANTI-DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN CHILE AND OTHER COUNTRIES." ON JULY 29, THE PATRIOT ALSO CARRIED ANTI-CIA STATEMENTS RECENTLY MADE BY PUNJAB AND WEST BENGAL STATE MINISTERS DURING STATE ASSEMBLY DEBATES BY THE BOMBAY-BASED PRO-CPI WEEKLY CLARITY CHARGED, "THE ENTIRE MONOPOLY PRESS BECAME THE MOUTHPICE AND LACKEY OF CAPITALISM, THE MONOPOLY INDUSTRIES, INDIAN BIG BUSINESS HOUSES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE WESTERN COUNTRIES--THE

USA IN PARTICULAR."

3. GUJARAT: THREE RAJYA SABHA MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED BY THE GUJARAT ASSEMBLY ON AUGUST 8. THE CONGRESS PARTY IS ATTEMPTING TO USE THE ELECTION TO SEPARATE THE TWELVE-MEMBER KISAN MAZDOOR LOK PAKSHA (KMLP) REPRESENTATION IN THE ASSEMBLY FROM THE "PEOPLE'S FRONT GOVERNMENT" BY SUPPORTING A KMLP CANDIDATE FOR ONE OF THE SEATS. SO FAR THE JANA SANGH, A MAJOR CONSTITUENT OF THE "PEOPLE'S FRONT" CABINET, IS DEMANDING THAT THE FRONT SUPPORT ONE OF ITS LEADERS FOR THE SEAT. IF THE CONGRESS SUCCEEDS IN ITS EFFORT TO WOO KMLP, IT COULD SPELL TROUBLE FOR THE FRONT'S SHAKY COALITION GOVERNMENT.

4. BOMBAY: SPECIAL INCOME TAX SQUADS IN BOMBAY ARE PRESENTLY ASSESSING THE TAX VALUE OF LUXURY APARTMENTS IN THE CITY'S BETTER RESIDENTIAL AREA. A JULY 30 ECONOMIC TIMES REPORT, APPARENTLY BASED ON A OFFICIAL SOURCE, REPORTS THAT THE AFFLUENCE OF SOME OF THE OWNERS WAS FOUND TO BE AS INNOVATIVE AS IT WAS FABULOUS: A SILVER-PLATED MAIN ENTRANCE IN ONE FLAT, ITALIAN MARBLE IN ANOTHER, A MOST ELABORATE JAPANESE GARDEN IN A THIRD, AND IN QUITE A FEW THERE WERE GADGETS APLENTY FOR SERVING AND STORING LIQUOR.

5. ARREST OF JAIPUR PRINCESS: A PTI STORY ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER SWATANTRA MP, GAYATRI DEVI, PRINCESS OF JAIPUR, HAS BEEN DETAINED BY THE GOI UNDER THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND PREVENTION OF SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES ACT. MRS. DEVI WAS ARRESTED IN DELHI AND MOVED TO TIHAR JAIL. (COMMENT: MRS. DEVI WAS A STRONG CRITIC OF MRS. GANDHI IN THE LAST LOK SABHA. HER REMARKS WERE OFTEN QUOTED IN THE WESTERN PAPERS. LATE LAST YEAR A SPECIAL INCOME TAX INVESTIGATION FOUND CONSIDERABLE UNDECLARED JEWELRY, VALUABLE ARTIFACTS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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GOLD IN HIDDEN VAULTS BENEATH ONE OF THE FAMILY PALACES IN JAIPUR. THE RAJMATA PLEADED "IGNORANCE" AND WAS NOT ARRESTED.)

6. THE PUNJAB CONGRESS PRADESH PRESIDENT TELLS US THAT 500 AKALI DAI LEADERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN HIS STATE THUS FAR, ALONG WITH ABOUT 200 JANA SANGH POLITICIANS. HE CONTRASTS THIS WITH THE 70,000 AKALIS ARRESTED DURING AGITATIONS IN 1959 AND SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO ADVERSE POPULAR REACTIONS THUS FAR TO THE ARRESTS. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT, MR BAROOAH, TO INCLUDE ONE OR TWO CPI MEMBERS ON LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEES DESIGNED TO SUPERVISE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EMERGENCY PROGRAMS, HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS PARTY

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